



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/084,140	02/28/2002	Kaoru Hatanaka	0505-0943P	5061
2292	7590	02/11/2005	EXAMINER	
BIRCH STEWART KOLASCH & BIRCH PO BOX 747 FALLS CHURCH, VA 22040-0747			ZANELLI, MICHAEL J	
		ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER
		3661		

DATE MAILED: 02/11/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.	10/084,140	
Examiner	Art Unit	
Michael J. Zanelli	3661	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 08 December 2004.
2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-23 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
5) Claim(s) 4-7,9-23 is/are allowed.
6) Claim(s) 1-3 is/are rejected.
7) Claim(s) 8 is/are objected to.
8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) All b) Some * c) None of:
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____. 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. This is responsive to the amendment filed 12/8/04. Claims 1-23 are pending.
2. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.
3. Claim 1 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Kosuge et al. (EP 0926059A2).

A. As per claim 1, Kosuge discloses a motor-assisted bicycle which includes a control unit for determining an assist ratio based on a comparison of a current running environment with a reference running environment such that the difference between the current and reference values are minimized (Abs.; [0059]). The current running environment is based in part on detecting operating parameters of the bicycle whereby running resistance and road gradient are taken into account [0023, 0029]. The reference running environment may be specified as zero running resistance [0031].

4. Claims 1-3 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Ooshima et al. (6,439,065).

A. As per claim 1, Ooshima discloses a control unit for a motor-assisted bicycle. A micro-computer controls an assist ratio based on the characteristic curves shown in Fig. 3 (col. 8, lines 48-54) which relate variations of driving forces and running resistance caused by speed in a variety of gradients. Means are provided for detecting the current operating characteristics of the bicycle such that the running resistance coincides with the drive force (i.e., flat road running) (col. 6, lines 1-52).

B. As per claims 2 and 3, as above wherein the drive force assistance is increased at low speeds to accelerate the bicycle (Fig. 3; col. 6, lines 17-46). With regards to the language added to claim 2, the torque detecting unit (33) detects actual pedaling forces and would thus detect the start of a pedaling operation.

5. Claims 4-7 and 9-23 are allowed.

6. Claim 8 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

7. **REMARKS**

A. Applicant's arguments filed 12/8/04 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

B. With regards to claim 1, both references satisfy the limitations set forth in the claim in that the actual running resistance is taken into account in generating the amount of assist drive force such that a desired running resistance is achieved.

C. With regards to amended claim 2, the added limitation adds little patentable weight since claim 2 already implied detection of the start of the pedaling operation (lines 9-10). Furthermore, Ooshima discloses means for detecting the pedaling operation as noted above.

8. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO

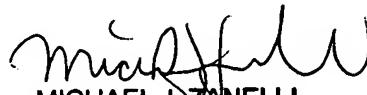
MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Michael J. Zanelli whose telephone number is (703) 305-9756. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday 5:30 AM - 4:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Thomas G. Black can be reached on (703) 305-8233. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

/mjz



MICHAEL J. ZANELLI
PRIMARY EXAMINER